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COUNTY OF FLINT

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REPORT

on the activities of the

School Medical Service

in the Administrative

County of Flint

during the year

1944

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

County Health Offices,
MOLD,
12th June, 1945.

The Chairman and Members
of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit hereby my report on the work of the School Medical Service in Flintshire during the year 1944, and, in so doing, to place on record my appreciation and thanks to you, a progressive Education Authority, for invaluable support and guidance, to my medical, dental, nursing and clerical staffs for loyal and untiring collaboration, and to the head teachers and staffs of the schools, for their prompt and generous help.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. E. ROBERTS,

School Medical Officer.

Section 1.

ADMINISTRATION.

A.—DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS.

School Medical Officer: Aneurin Evan Roberts, M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

First Assistant School Medical Officer: A. E. Gwladys Rowlands, M.B. B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Quarter-time. Also (Three-quarter time) First Assistant County Medical Officer (M. & C.W.)

Second Assistant School Medical Officer: Vernon Kent Drennan, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverp.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.) Three-fourths time. Also (one-fourth time) Second Assistant County Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare). On Service with H.M. Forces.

Temporary Assistant School Medical Officers: Thomas Wynne Brindle, M.B., Ch.B. W. H. Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H.. Betty J. McConnell, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. (Wales).

School Dental Surgeon: Peter Lunt, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

First Assistant School Dental Surgeon: Miss N. G. Woodward, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.).

Second Assistant School Dental Surgeon: W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S. (Began 22/1/45).

School Nurses (Half-time Health Visitors): **Buckley**—Miss L. M. Eyes, T.N., S.C.M.; **Caergwrle**—Mrs. Janet Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.F.N., Tb. Cert; **Caerwys**—Mrs. M. Edwards, S.R.N., S.C.M.; Connah's **Quay**—Mrs. J. M. Hampson, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert., Tb.Cert., Ep. Diploma; **Flint**—Mrs. M. M. Nield, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., Tb. Cert.; **Hawarden**—Miss E. Jones, S.C.M., H.V. & San.Cert.; **Holywell**—Miss L. Reynolds, S.R.N., S.C.M.; **Maelor**—Mrs. M. P. Thomas, S.R.N., S.C.M., Trnd.Fev. & Tb., H.V. & S.N.Cert.; **Mold**—Mrs. M. Ll. Taylor, S.R.N.; **Northop**—Miss A. Molloy, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.; **Prestatyn**—Miss M. E. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M.; **Rhyl**—Miss A. M. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., and Miss D. Sheppard (Temp. Asst.).

County Tuberculosis Visitor: Miss D. V. Gray, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., M.S.R.

Chief Clerk: William Davies, A.R.I.P.H.H.

Senior Assistant Clerks: W. Ithel Roberts (County Health); Arthur Whitley (School Medical—on Service with H.M. Forces).

B.—ASSOCIATED OFFICERS.

Clerk of the County Council:—

Mr. J. Harvey Davies, C.B.E. (Retired). Mr. W. Hugh Jones (since 7/3/45).

Secretary of the Education Committee:—

Dr. B. Haydn Williams, B.Sc., Ph.D.

County Surveyor and Architect:—

Mr. R. G. Whitley, A.M.I.C.E., L.R.I.B.A., County Buildings, Mold.

County Accountant:—Mr. R. J. Jones, County Finance Offices, Mold.

Physical Training Organisers:—

Mr. Bertram W. Clarke; Miss Sarah Storey-Jones.

School Meals Organiser:—Mrs. M. Hugh Edwards.

C.—HEADQUARTERS.

County Health Offices, County Buildings, Mold—Tel.: 106 Mold.

D.—GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area of Administrative County—	
Statutory Acres	163,707
Square Miles	255.7
Population of County—	
1931 Census	112,889
1943 Mid-year Estimate	131,590
Number of Schools—	
Elementary	117
Central	5
Secondary	5
School Child Population—	
Aged 5-14 years—1931 Census	17,491
On School Registers—Year ended 31st March, 1944 ...	17,740
Average Attendance—Year ended 31st March, 1944 ...	15,015
Financial Circumstances of County—	
Rateable Value—As at 1st April, 1945	£750,556
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate—Year 1945/46 ...	£3,000
County Birth Rate—	
Per 1,000 Population—Year 1943	17.7
County Death Rate—	
Infantile—Per 1,000 Births—Year 1943	50.6
General—Per 1,000 Population—Year 1943	11.8
Medical Officers—	
For County Health and School Medical Services combined (1943)	5
School Dental Surgeons—	
Full-time Officers (1944) 2; (1945)	3
School Nurses—	
Serving half-time also as Health Visitors	13
Clinical Establishments—	
Minor Ailments (for School Children)	8
Orthopædic (for Patients of all ages)	3
Dental (for School Children)—Portable (1944) 2; (1945) ...	3
Infant Welfare (for pre-School Children)	12
Visual Defects (for School Children)—Portable	1
Tonsils and Adenoids—at Hospitals	7
Tuberculosis (Welsh National Memorial Association) ...	4

E.—FLINTSHIRE CLINICS.
(Situations, Opening Hours, etc.).

MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

Buckley—Welsh C.M. Chapel. Every Tuesday, 2 to 4-30 p.m. Doctor attends every opening.

Caergwrle—Wesleyan Church Schoolrooms. Every Tuesday, 1-30 to 2-30 p.m. Doctor attends 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

Flint—The Clinic, Borough Grove. Every Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

Holywell—County School Grounds. Every Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

Mold—The Clinic, King Street. Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School.—Every Monday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

Saltney—The Clinic. Every Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

Shotton—The Clinic, Central School. Every Monday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Doctor attends every opening.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINICS.

Holywell—Cottage Hospital. 2nd and 4th Fridays of each calendar month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Orthopædic Nurse attends every opening; Surgeon every 4 months.

Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School. 2nd and 4th Fridays of each calendar month, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m. Orthopædic Nurse attends every opening; Surgeon every 4 months.

Shotton—Council School. 1st and 3rd Fridays of each calendar month, 10-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Orthopædic Nurse attends every opening; Surgeon every 4 months.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

(Attended by Tuberculosis Officer, Welsh National Memorial Association).

Holywell—Cottage Hospital. Every Tuesday. 10-30 a.m.
Penyffordd—Meadowslea Hospital. Every Monday and Thursday, 2 p.m.
Queensferry—Oaklands. Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.
Rhyl—27 Edward Henry Street. Every Friday, 10 a.m.

Section 2.

TEXT.

Administration—Fortunately, there have been no changes in the medicel staff of the Authority during the year, and in consequence the work of the School Medical Service has been able to proceed without interruption. As a result, the number of school children examined shows a considerable increase over the previous year :—

Year	Routine Inspections		Special Inspections	No. of Re-examinations	Total
	Elementary	Secondary			
1943	3651	321	6359	5427	15,758
1944	4221	707	6868	5829	17,625

It will be noted that it has been found possible during the year to examine two age groups in the Secondary (now Grammar) Schools.

Findings of Medical Inspection—These are shown in Table 2 of the Report.

Minor Defects—Cases of Scabies and Impetigo still account for approximately 60 % of the skin diseases found at special examinations, and both are the cause of much unnecessary "absenteeism." All cases of Scabies are notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Sanitary Authority.

Nutrition—The nutrition of the children in the fifth and part of the sixth year of the War has been well maintained as is shown by the following camparison with 1943 and the pre-war yars :—

Year	No. of Children Examined	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slight)		D (Bad)	
		No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage
1944	4221	459	10.9	3134	74.2	594	14.1	34	0.8
1943	3651	425	11.6	2755	75.5	457	12.5	14	0.4
1939	2367	257	11.0	1838	77.6	267	11.2	5	0.2
1938	4823	400	8.3	3821	79.2	577	12.0	25	0.5
1937	4621	418	9.0	3579	77.5	591	12.8	33	0.7

Dental—Both the number of children inspected and the number treated shows an increase on the previous year. In spite of repeated efforts, it was not found possible to secure the services of an additional dental surgeon during the year. Early in 1945, however, Mr. W. B. Glynn Jones, L.D.S., was appointed and took up his duties on 22/1/45. During 1944, the Authority agreed to the appointment of three Dental Attendants, who took up their duties in September. Their assistance is greatly appreciated by the School Dental Surgeons.

Diphtheria Immunisation—The following is a percentage statement of the position in each of the Sanitary Districts of the County as at the end of the year under review :—

Sanitary District	Percentage of Child Population Immunised on the 31st December, 1944	
	Aged 1 to 5 years	Aged 5 to 15 yeors
URBAN—		
Buckley	59.8	71.1
Connah's Quay	98.7	71.2
Flint (M.B.)	100.0	95.1
Holywell	88.0	91.4
Mold	100.0	86.7
Prestatyn	99.5	98.8
Rhyl	60.8	88.3
RURAL—		
Hawarden	43.7	81.6
Holywell	77.5	75.7
Overton	89.1	80.9
St. Asaph	66.6	77.7

School Premises—The sanitary and hygienic conditions of all schools are inspected and reported upon by the examining medical officer at the time of the routine medical inspections.

During the War it has only been possible to rectify major defects, but the passing of the Education Act, 1944, and the submission by the Minister of Education of Regulations prescribing standards for school premises should bring about a much needed and long delayed improvement. These Regulations call for a complete survey of all the Schools in the County and will probably involve the Authority in an extensive and costly programme of adaptation and reconstruction.

The Education Act 1944—The provisions of the Education Act, 1944, with regard to handicapped pupils, medical inspection and treatment go far beyond those of the Education Act of 1921, the chief points of difference being outlined in the paragraphs which follow.

Medical Inspections—It is now **obligatory** upon the parent to present for medical inspection any child who is in attendance at a maintained school. Failure to do so renders the parent liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5.

Medical Treatment—Formerly it was the duty of the Authority to provide medical treatment only for children attending public **elementary** schools, but they had the power to make similar provision for children at secondary and other schools. Now it is the duty of the Authority to provide free medical treatment for all pupils in attendance at any school or county college maintained by them. Formerly, the cost of treatment had to be recovered from the parent, whereas now no charge is to be made to the parent. Likewise it is now the duty o fthe Authority to encourage and assist pupils to take advantage of the treatment facilities provided, though it is not obligatory upon the parent or pupil to accept such treatment facilities.

Handicapped Pupils—It is now the duty of the Local Education Authority to ascertain what children in their area require special educational treatment, and, having ascertained, to provide that special educational treatment. Formerly the duty to provide such treatment was only in respect of children over 7 years of age; now the duty is in respect of children over 2 years of age.

Draft Regulations have been drawn up and submitted to Parliament governing the conduct of medical inspections, the catagories of handicapped pupils, the special methods of education required for such handicapped pupils, etc., and these provide that the Authority shall submit for the approval of the Minister of Education as soon as possible after April 1st, 1945, their proposed arrangements for discharging their functions in carrying on the School Medical Services.

The provision of free medical treatment for all pupils, and the provision of special educational treatment for handicapped pupils, have such wide implications that a special report is being drawn up and will be submitted in due course for the consideration of the Authority.

Section 3.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE 1.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS, 1944.

Description	Inspections	
	Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS—		
Children of Prescribed Age Groups—		
The aged 6	1706	—
The aged 8	1134	—
The aged 12	1345	361
The aged 15	—	346
Children of Other Ages	36	—
Total (Routine)	4221	707
NON-ROUTINE INSPECTIONS—		
Special Inspections	6866	2
Re-inspections	5772	57
Total (Non-Routine)	12638	59
TOTAL INSPECTIONS—		
(Routine and Non-Routine)	16859	766

TABLE 2.

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR.

Excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Conditions.

Note.—The figures in brackets denote secondary school pupils; those not in brackets elementary school children.

Disease or Defect	ROUTINE INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No. of Defects		No of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring Treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin—Ringworm: Scalp	1	—	13	1
Body	—	—	32	—
Scabies	30 (6)	2	362	2
Impetigo	17 (1)	—	307	2
Other Dis. (Non-Tub.)	111 (15)	15 (4)	287	12
Eye—Blepharitis	55 (4)	1	70	1
Conjunctivitis	3	1	24	—
Keratitis	—	—	—	1
Corneal Opacities	1	2 (1)	—	3
Def. Vision (Ex. Squint	52 (19)	88 (18)	188	100
Squint	52 (4)	50 (3)	83	33
Other (Eye) Conditions	9 (1)	11 (1)	103	11
Ear—Defective Hearing	9	11	8	8
Otitis Media	16 (1)	10 (3)	59	3
Other (Ear) Diseases ...	12 (2)	19 (3)	69	28
Nose and Throat—				
Chronic Tonsillitis only:				
Requiring Operation ...	172 (3)	37	138	6
Not req'ring Operation	207 (46)	334 (38)	163	62
Adenoids only:				
Requiring Operation ...	11	4	39	2
Not req'ring Operation	5	27 (1)	15	23
Chr. T'itis & Adenoids:				
Requiring Operation ...	88 (3)	2	203	7
Not req'ring Operation	9	23 (1)	10	17
Other Conditions:				
Not req'ring Operation	53 (7)	25 (1)	344	24

TABLE 2 (continued).

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Cervical Glands Enlarged (Non-Tubercular)	37	23 (5)	77	20
Speech Defective	7	11	5	13
Heart and Circulation—				
Heart Dis.: Organic ...	8 (1)	12	9	12
Functional	4 (4)	73 (12)	14	14
Anæmia	109 (23)	2 (1)	60	1
Lungs—Bronchitis	76 (2)	71 (5)	134	50
Other (Lungs) Non-T'b.	16	25 (9)	33	31
Tuberculosis:				
Pulmonary: Definite ...	2	—	3	—
Suspected ...	5	2	5	11
Non-Pulmonary:				
Glands	7	—	5	8
Bones and Joints	—	—	1	—
Skin	—	—	—	—
Other Forms	—	—	3	1
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy	3	2	11	3
Chorea	4	4	10	6
Other (Nerve) Cond'ns	7 (1)	10 (2)	34	26
Deformities—				
Rickets	2	8	—	—
Spinal Curvature	21 (4)	—	8	—
Other Forms	107 (15)	26 (9)	121	15
Debility	9 (1)	—	66	14
Goitre	5	2 (2)	2	2
Rheumatism	3 (1)	4 (2)	44	5
Other Defects & Diseases				
Major	50	16 (1)	164	38
Minor	508 (49)	51 (7)	2183	212

TABLE 3(a).

NUTRITION.

Classification of the Nutrition of the Children Examined
Routine Inspections only.
(Elementary School Children).

Age Group	Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Sl. Sub-norm.)		D. (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	1706	159	9.3	1292	75.7	247	14.5	8	0.5
Second Age-Group	1134	133	11.7	829	73.1	166	14.6	6	0.5
Third Age-Group	1345	163	12.1	984	73.2	178	13.2	20	1.5
Other Inspections	36	4	11.1	29	80.5	3	8.3	—	—
Totals ...	4221	459	10.9	3134	74.2	594	14.1	34	0.8

TABLE 3(b).

NUTRITION.

Classification of the Nutrition of the Children Examined
Routine Inspections only.
(Secondary School Pupils).

Age Group	Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Sl. Sub-norm.)		D. (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
The aged 12 Group	361	48	13.3	252	69.8	57	15.8	4	1.1
The aged 15 Group	346	89	25.7	238	68.8	19	5.5	—	—
Other Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	707	137	19.4	490	69.3	76	10.7	4	0.6

TABLE 4.

UNCLEANLINESS CONDITIONS.

Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses		9
Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by the School Nurses		68,504
Number of individual children found to be unclean—		
(a) Dirty but not verminous	150	
(b) Slightly verminous (nits only)	722	
(c) Markedly verminous (pediculi)	126	
	——	998
Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority		—
Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken—		
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921		—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws		—

TABLE 5.

CASES SPECIALLY REFERRED TO NURSES.

Disease or Defect	Cases Referred	No. of Visits
General Ailments	7442	9547
Nose and Throat Conditions	473	1303
Eye Diseases and Defects	182	650
Crippling Conditions	43	90
General Debility	7	16
Blindness, Deafness, Epilepsy, etc.	9	52
Totals	8156	11658

TABLE 6.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES.

Disease or Defect	Number of Cases	Results of Visits, Advice given, &c. Treated: Remedied	Improved	Unchanged	Not Treated	Not Re-examined
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Dirty (but not verminous)	150	107	32	8	—	3
Verminous—Slight ...	722	411	220	57	—	34
Marked ...	126	68	42	14	1	1
Clothing and Footgear ...	135	102	27	6	—	—
Skin—Ringworm : Head	9	9	—	—	—	—
Body	7	7	—	—	—	—
Impetigo, Sores, etc.	574	515	41	10	—	8
Other (Skin) ...	159	107	43	3	—	6
Ear Disease	80	53	16	9	—	2
Eye Disease (External) ...	219	121	63	20	6	9
Other Diseases or Defects	2247	1486	582	71	20	88
Totals	4428	2986	1066	198	27	151

Number of Examinations of Children in the Homes ... 3,578
Number of Examinations of Children in the Schools ... 68,504

TABLE 7.

DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

NOTE—The figures in brackets denote secondary school pupils ; those not in brackets elementary school children.

Defect	Number of Defects: Received Operative Treatment: Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from Authority's Scheme	Total Operatively Treated	Received other forms of treatment	Total number of Defects treated
Chronic Tonsillitis only	164 (2)	—	164 (2)	281 (95)	445 (97)
Adenoids only ...	11	—	11	12 (6)	23 (6)
Chr. Tonsillitis & Adens.	202 (1)	—	202 (1)	11 (4)	213 (5)
Other Conditions ...	—	—	—	300 (50)	300 (50)
Totals	377 (3)	—	377 (3)	604(155)	981 (158)

TABLE 8.

MINOR AILMENTS TREATED.
(Excluding Uncleanliness and Teeth, for which see Tables 4, 6 and 11 respectively).

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment, during the year		
	Under the Authority's Arrangements	Not under Authority's Arrangements	Total Minor Ailments Treated
Skin—Ringworm: Scalp *	9	2	11
Body	29	—	29
Scabies	389	8	397
Impetigo	314	10	324
Other Diseases	365	13	378
Total	1106	33	1139
Minor Eye Diseases and Defects— (External and other, but excluding cases which fall in Table 9):			
Blepharitis	113	3	116
Conjunctivitis	24	3	27
Keratitis	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	—	—	—
Other Diseases or Defects ...	100	5	105
Total	237	11	248
Minor Ear Defects— (Excluding serious diseases, e.g., those operatively treated, etc.):			
Defective Hearing	9	2	11
Otitis Media	45	29	74
Other Diseases or Defects ...	59	22	81
Total	113	53	166
Miscellaneous Defects— (e.g., Minor Injuries, Bruises, Cuts, Sores, Chilblains, Abrasions, Burns, Scalds, etc.)	2491	124	2615
Total	2491	124	2615
Total Minor Ailments Treated ...	3947	221	4168

* None received X-Ray Treatment.

TABLE 9.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION (AND SQUINT).

Description	Number of Children Treated		
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Under Private Arrangem'ts	Total
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	359	79	438
Other Disease or Defect of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Table 8)	—	6	6
Children Treated	359	85	444

Number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 259

(b) Under private arrangements 79

Number of Children for whom spectacles were obtained :—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 248

(b) Under private arrangements 79

TABLE 10.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

Description	Elementary	Secondary
(1) Number of children who were—		
(a) Inspected by Dentist :		
Routine Age-Groups—		
Aged 6	951	...
„ 7	889	...
„ 8	889	...
„ 9	880	...
„ 10	...	6
„ 11	...	43
„ 12	...	61
„ 13	...	15
„ 14	...	1
„ 15	...	...
Total (Routine)	3609	126
Specials (i.e., Non-Routine)	170	2
Total (Routine and Specials)	3779	128
(b) Found to require treatment	2995	93
(c) Actually treated	2254	58
(d) Re-treated during the year	...	...
(2) Half days devoted to—		
Inspection	72½	2
Treatment	665	23¼
Ancillary work	161½	2½
(3) Attendances made by children for treatment ...	5922	260
(4) Fillings—		
Permanent Teeth	1065	84
Temporary Teeth	624	...
(5) Extractions—		
Permanent Teeth	273	36
Temporary Teeth	5233	54
(6) Administrations of Anæsthetic for Extractions—		
General	...	...
Local	5506	90
(7) Other Operations—		
Permanent Teeth	404	79
Temporary Teeth	985	11
(8) Letters to, or interviews with, Parents	312	8